538 young Finnish authors, many of them quite talented, who have been immersed in admiration of beauty or struggling with the questions of life and death. Many of them have succumbed to tuberculosis, the poets' disease, before reaching the age of thirty. In Finland it is next to impossible to live by one's literary efforts alone, and many of the most prominent authors and poets hold respected positions in the society as scientists, scholars, ministers, teachers, etc. Cultural funds and organizations do their best to help talented authors and to give them an opportunity to concentrate on creative work.

• 346 Architecture. The earliest specimens of Finnish architecture are the mediaeval stone churches in the southern and central parts of

346 the country, of which about 75 are still preserved in good condition. The oldest of these are from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, situated on a hill on a lake shore, with sturdy grey walls and high Gothic roofs. The bell-tower stands separately, at some distance; in Åland the rural churches have a tower on the top. Built by wandering monks and craftsmen, these churches are ditinguished by simple dignity and noble proportions, which make them blend harmoniously with the scenery. The Romanic-Gothic cathedral of Turku, built between 1229 and 1300 and enlarged continuously through the Middle Ages by the addition of new chapels and chancels, belongs among the most beautiful in the Northern countries. Many of the great men and women of Finland's past lie buried within.

349 Another aspect of mediaeval architecture is represented by the stone castles, of which those of Turku, Hämeenlinna, Savonlinna (and Viipuri) have survived the destruction of wars and other devastations; of others only ruins remain. They reflect more genuine mediaeval features than the old castles in the other Northern countries. The castle in Turku today contains an extensive and interesting museum. The castle in Savonlinna, called Olavinlinna, a particularly beautiful example of Finnish architecture situated on an island in the wide Saimaa lake system, is a favorite tourist spot.

[346] Churches dating from the period of the reformation were usually built of wood in imitation of the style of the mediaeval ones, but there exist also a few stone mansions. The most decorative were built in the following century in the baroque

796 Divine Services are held every Sunday morning, and in the cities in the evening also. The sermon, of course, comprises the central part of the service, but the liturgy is rich, and on special holidays the officiating minister or ministers wear decorative cassocks over their or-
[533] dinary black cloaks. Great importance is placed on singing, and the hymnal contains many examples of Finnish religious folk music. A divine service, especially in the mediaeval stone or brick churches, is an impressive occasion.

346 There are altogether about seventy of these old churches descending from Catholic times and located in the southern and central parts of the country. They are interesting and beautiful pieces of native architecture, decorated with wooden sculpture and colorful wall paintings. The most impressive of them all is the great

346 cathedral in Turku, built in the thirteenth century and surely one of the most beautiful churches in the north of Europe. The tradition of church building has been carried on, and some of the most modern examples of church architecture are to be found in Finland.

794 In addition to churches the congregations[1] build chapels and prayer houses in distant regions of the parishes, and also community centers, homes for the old and disabled, etc. On the other hand, there are no schools operated by the Church except for the training of its social workers, deacons and deasonesses and its Sunday school teachers. For the training of the deaconesses, the Church supports four hospitals 797 in different parts of the country. It also is active in missionary work in South Africa, China (until recently), Japan and Palestine, and has

[1] [i.e: Greek Catholic -- Analyst]